TOMB OF DRACULA
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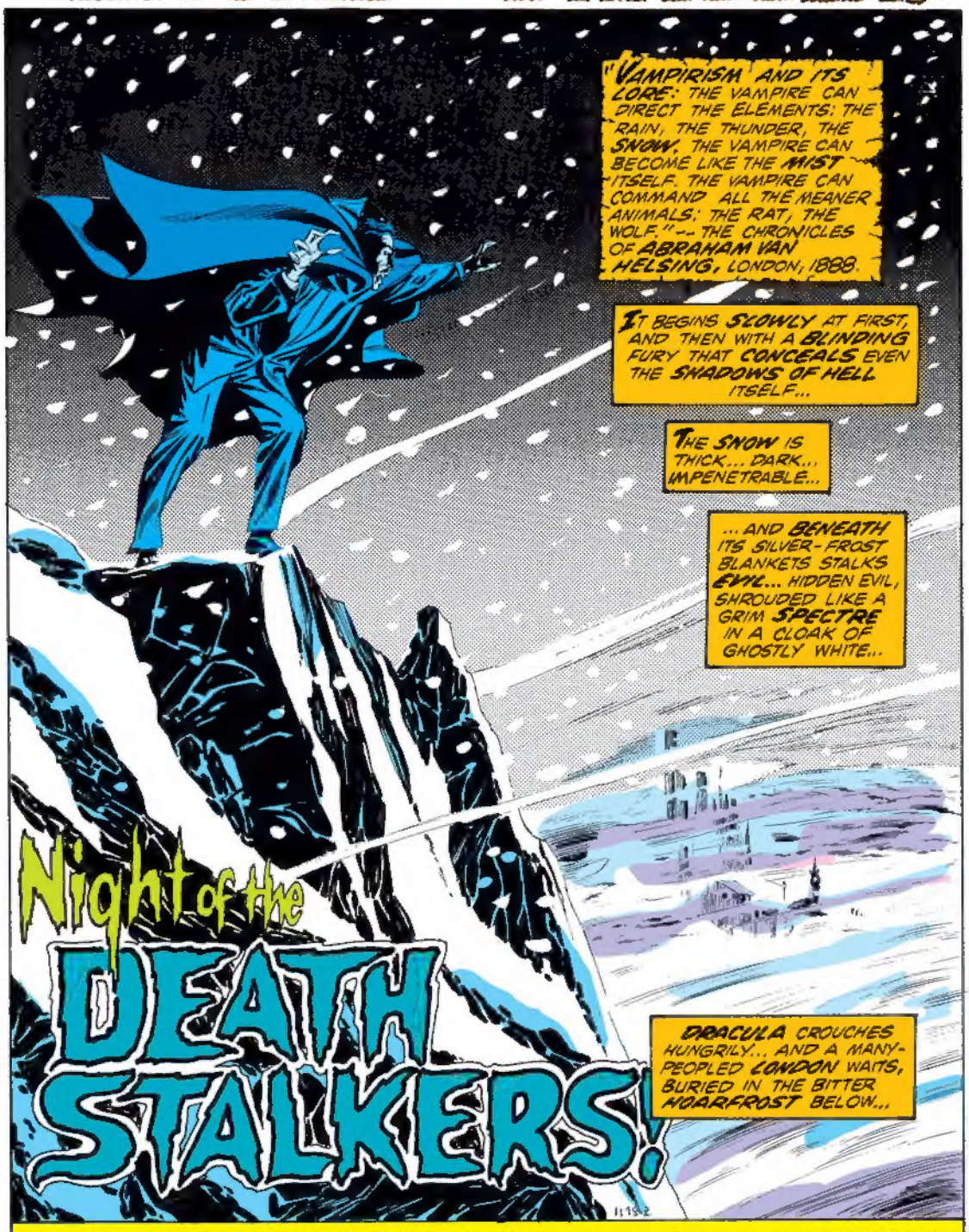
THE TOMB OF DRACULA™
GOOD EVENING, FRANK DRAKE!
THESE ARE MY LITTLE FRIENDS! THEY'RE HERE TO SHOW YOU THAT--
...THE CHILD IS SLAYER OF THE MAN!

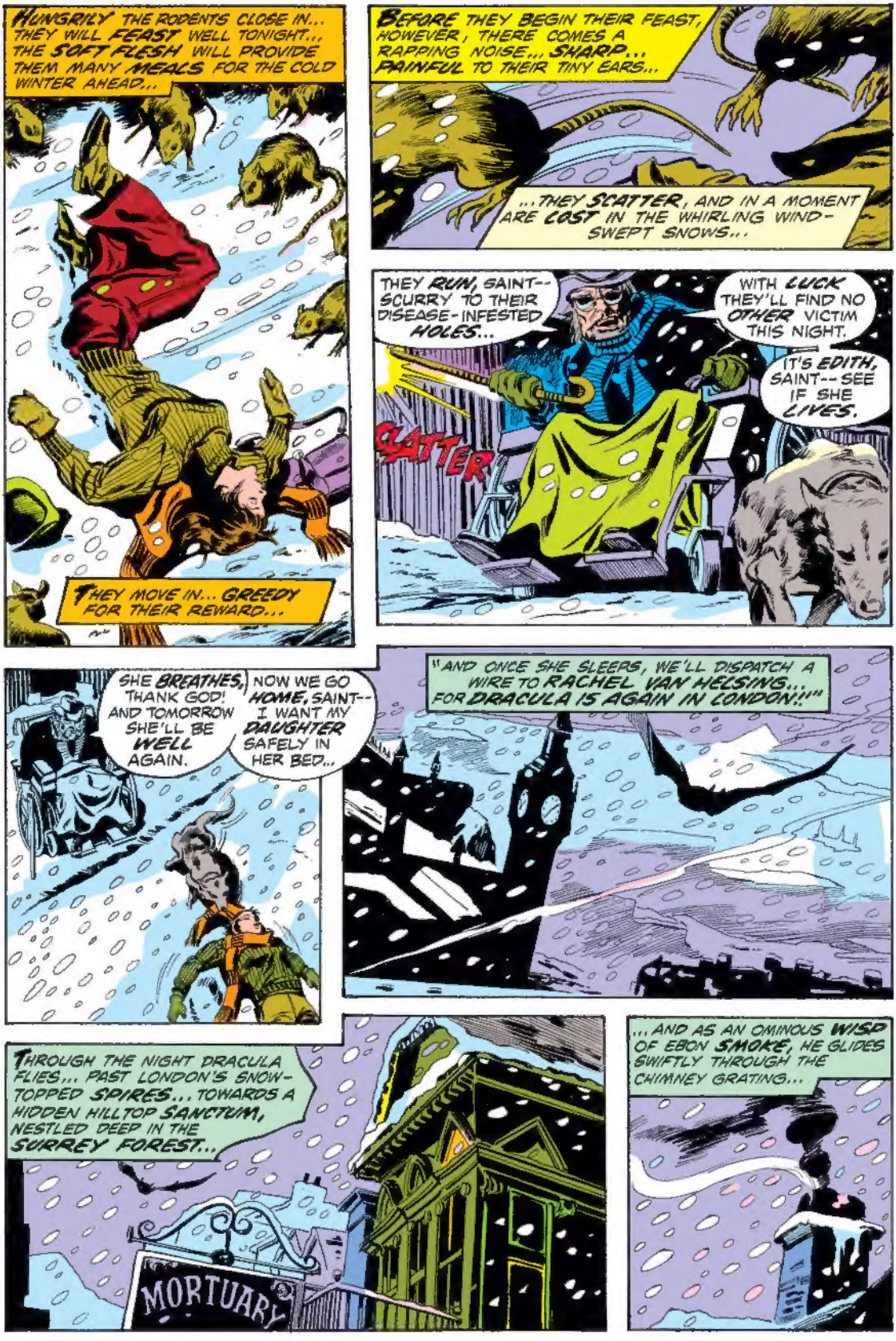
Stan Lee PRESENTS: TOMB OF DRACULA!™

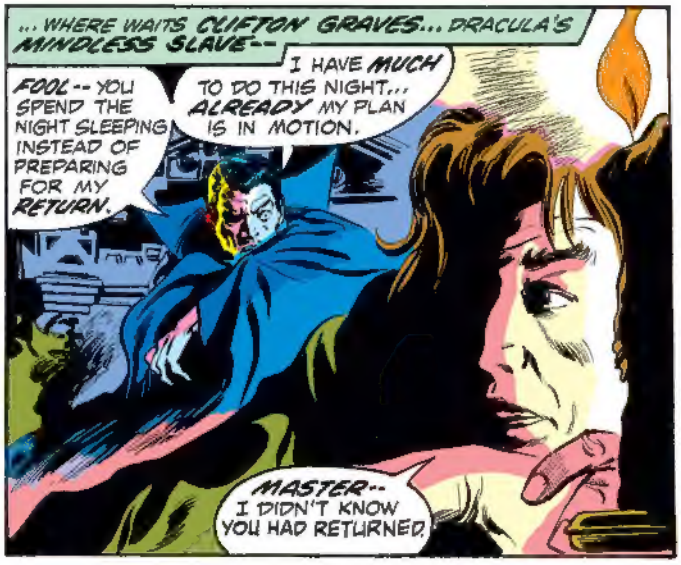

"VAMPIRISM AND ITS LORE: THE VAMPIRE CAN DIRECT THE ELEMENTS: THE RAIN, THE THUNDER, THE SNOW. THE VAMPIRE CAN BECOME LIKE THE MIST ITSELF. THE VAMPIRE CAN COMMAND ALL THE MEANER ANIMALS: THE RAT, THE WOLF."— THE CHRONICLES OF ABRAHAM VAN HELSING, LONDON, 1888.
IT BEGINS SLOWLY AT FIRST, AND THEN WITH A BLINDING FURY THAT CONCEALS EVEN THE SHADOWS OF HELL ITSELF...
THE SNOW IS THICK... DARK... IMPENETRABLE...
...AND BENEATH ITS SILVER-FROST BLANKETS STALKS EVIL... HIDDEN EVIL, SHROUDED LIKE A GRIM SPECTRE IN A CLOAK OF GHOSTLY WHITE...
DRACULA CROUCHES HUNGRILY... AND A MANY-PEOPLED LONDON WAITS, BURIED IN THE BITTER HOARFROST BELOW...
Night of the DEATH STALKERS!

AN EXCURSION INTO MYSTERY BY MARV WOLFMAN, WRITER; GENE COLAN, AND TOM PALMER, ARTISTS; JOHN COSTANZA, LETTERER; AND T. PALMER, COLORIST. EDITED BY ROY THOMAS

TOO LONG HAS DRACULA GONE HUNGRY. HE LUSTS FOR THE TASTE OF FRESH WARM BLOOD... LIFE-GIVING BLOOD...
FOR LONG MOMENTS HE STARES AT THE SNOW-COVERED CITY, AND THEN HE TURNS, HIS BODY SHIFTS AND CHANGES...
IT FORMS, RE-FORMS, ALTERS... WHERE ONCE POWERFUL ARMS GRASPED, NOW BEAT LEATHERY WINGS...
...WHERE ONCE STRONG-LIMBED LEGS STOOD NOW FLY TALONED CLAWS...
...WHERE ONCE THE BLOOD OF ARISTOCRACY FLOWED, NOW OOZES THE SICK-GREEN LIQUID OF ONE LONG UNDEAD ...UNLIVING...
...AND LONDON SLEEPS... ALL THE TIME UN-KNOWING...
I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW THEN, EDITH?
SURE YOU DON'T WANT A RIDE HOME? RUDDY STORM IS ACTING RIGHT UP NOW.
THANKS, MR. CAULKINS... BUT I'LL MANAGE.
VERY WELL... TAKE CARE, THEN.
RUBBER BAND
TISSUES
ALMOST MUFFLED IN THE DISTANCE, BIG BEN CHIMES THE SEVENTH HOUR. CLOSER STILL, THERE ARE OTHER SOUNDS ...ALSO MUTED BY THE COLD BLANKET OF SNOW...
IS IT ANY WONDER THEN THE ALMOST SILENT BEAT OF WINGS GOES UNHEARD... UNHEEDED...?
THERE ARE NO EYES RAISED TO THE STARLESS SKIES THIS NIGHT. IS IT ANY WONDER THEN THAT DARK SHAPES CAN PROWL THE STREETS UNSEEN...?

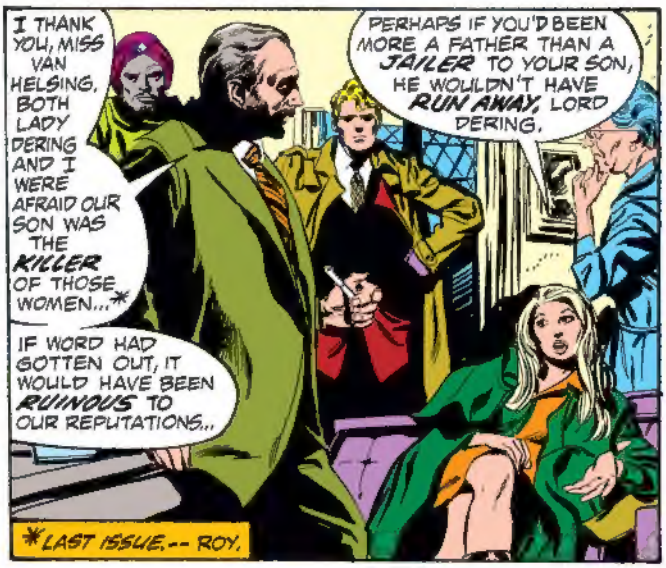
...UNTIL IT IS TOO LATE...?
SCREE
EEE
WHAT--?
A BAT-- COMING AT ME!!
DEAR LORD--NO!! NOT HERE!! NOT NOW!!!
CREEEEEEEE
IT COMES,,, CLOSER... CLOSER... ITS SHARP-FANGED TEETH SPREAD... ANTICIPATING...
IT SWOOPS TOWARD THE FRIGHTENED GIRL. SHE TURNS... RUNS... BUT IT STILL COMES...
THEN, BEFORE HER, SHE HEARS A HIGH-PITCHED SQUEAL...
SHE KNOWS THE SOUND, BUT STILL SHE TURNS TO STARE: RATS... HUNGRY RATS... SEARCHING FOR A DINNER OF HUMAN FLESH...
OH GOOD LORD-- GET THEM AWAY... PLEASE-- GET THEM AWAY FROM ME!
OF COURSE, MY DEAR-- I'LL SAVE YOU... JUST COME TO ME.
DRACULA!??!
YOU KNOW ME, WOMAN? HOW??
NO! THE CRUCIFIX!! THE ACCURSED CRUCIFIX!! I CAN'T COME CLOSER!
BLAST YOU, WOMAN-- I MUST FIND ANOTHER VICTIM...
YOU CAN KEEP YOUR PEASANT BLOOD-- AND LET THE RATS FEAST ON IT.


HUNGRILY THE RODENTS CLOSE IN... THEY WILL FEAST WELL TONIGHT... THE SOFT FLESH WILL PROVIDE THEM MANY MEALS FOR THE COLD WINTER AHEAD...
THEY MOVE IN... GREEDY FOR THEIR REWARD...
BEFORE THEY BEGIN THEIR FEAST, HOWEVER, THERE COMES A RAPPING NOISE... SHARP... PAINFUL TO THEIR TINY EARS...
...THEY SCATTER, AND IN A MOMENT ARE LOST IN THE WHIRLING WIND-SWEPT SNOWS...
THEY RUN, SAINT-- SCURRY TO THEIR DISEASE-INFESTED HOLES...
WITH LUCK THEY'LL FIND NO OTHER VICTIM THIS NIGHT.
IT'S EDITH, SAINT-- SEE IF SHE LIVES.
SCATTER
SHE BREATHES, THANK GOD! AND TOMORROW SHE'LL BE WELL AGAIN.
NOW WE GO HOME, SAINT-- I WANT MY DAUGHTER SAFELY IN HER BED...
"AND ONCE SHE SLEEPS, WE'LL DISPATCH A WIRE TO RACHEL VAN HELSING... FOR DRACULA IS AGAIN IN LONDON!!"
THROUGH THE NIGHT DRACULA FLIES... PAST LONDON'S SNOW-TOPPED SPIRES... TOWARDS A HIDDEN HILLTOP SANCTUM, NESTLED DEEP IN THE SURREY FOREST...
MORTUARY
...AND AS AN OMINOUS WISP OF EBON SMOKE, HE GLIDES SWIFTLY THROUGH THE CHIMNEY GRATING...


...WHERE WAITS CLIFTON GRAVES... DRACULA'S MINDLESS SLAVE--
I HAVE MUCH TO DO THIS NIGHT... ALREADY MY PLAN IS IN MOTION.
FOOL -- YOU SPEND THE NIGHT SLEEPING INSTEAD OF PREPARING FOR MY RETURN.
MASTER-- I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD RETURNED

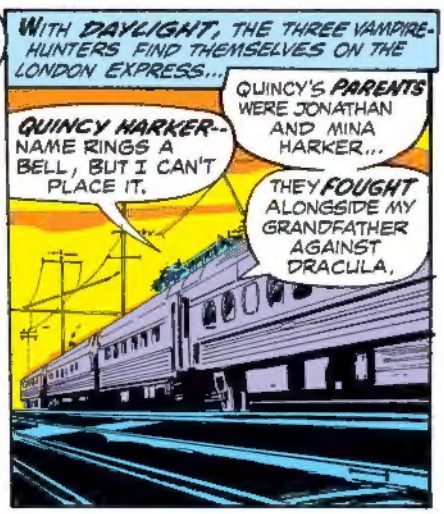
RACHEL VAN HELSING AND FRANK DRAKE WILL SOON BE BACK IN LONDON... AND I WILL BE WAITING FOR THEM...
CAN I HELP, MASTER? I ONLY WISH TO SERVE YOU...

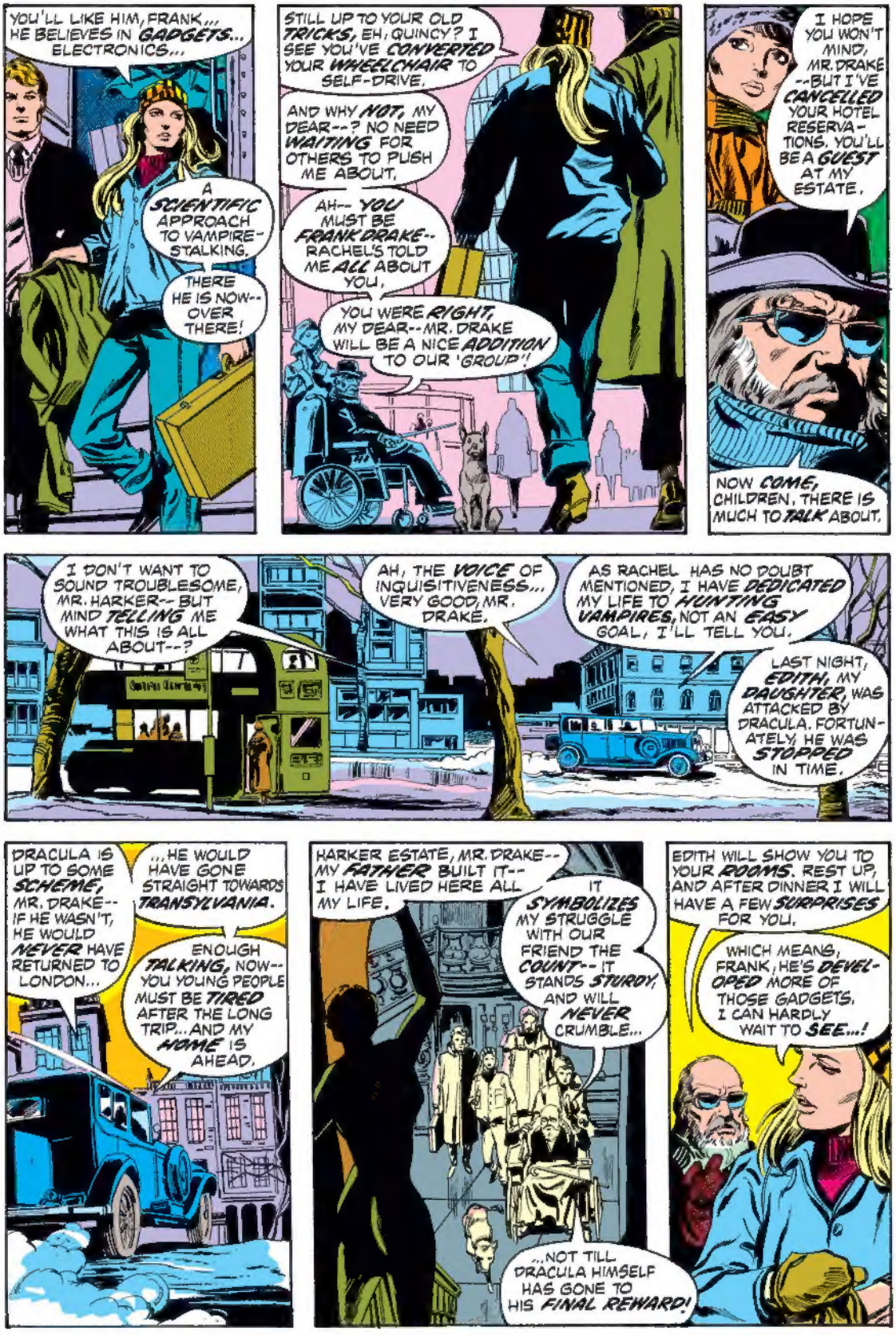
YOU? YOU'RE NO BETTER THAN A WHIMPERING CHILD!
GET AWAY FROM ME, FOOL -- BEFORE I SICKEN OF YOUR COWARDLY PRESENCE...
ELSEWHERE... ON THE MOORS, FAR FROM LONDON'S CENTER... IN THE ANCESTRAL HOME OF LORD AND LADY DERING... ANOTHER SCENE TAKES PLACE...

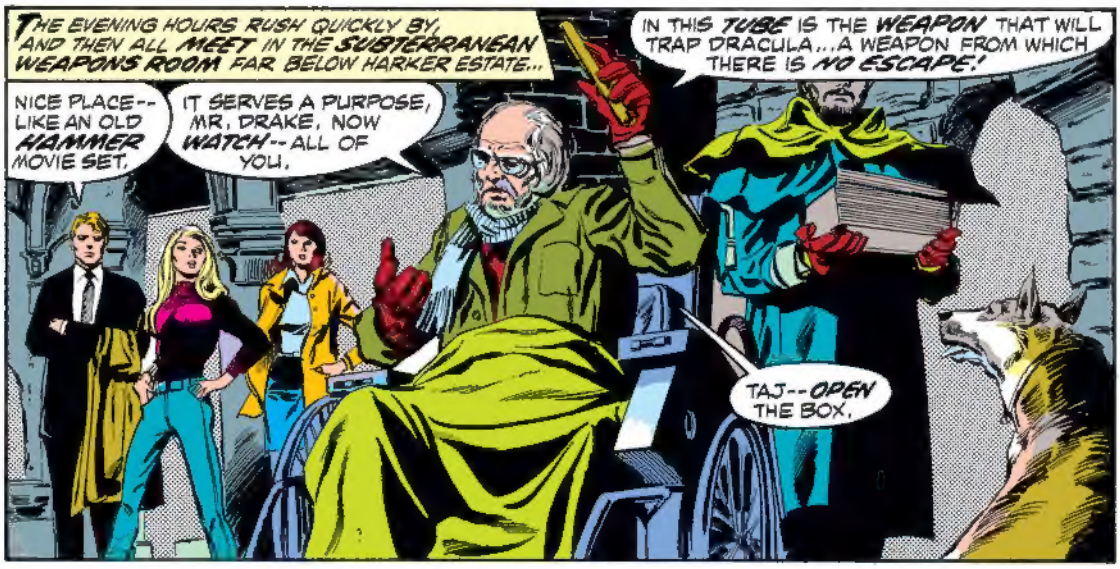

I THANK YOU, MISS VAN HELSING, BOTH LADY DERING AND I WERE AFRAID OUR SON WAS THE KILLER OF THOSE WOMEN...*
PERHAPS IF YOU'D BEEN MORE A FATHER THAN A JAILER TO YOUR SON, HE WOULDN'T HAVE RUN AWAY, LORD DERING.
IF WORD HAD GOTTEN OUT, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN RUINOUS TO OUR REPUTATIONS...
*LAST ISSUE.-- ROY.

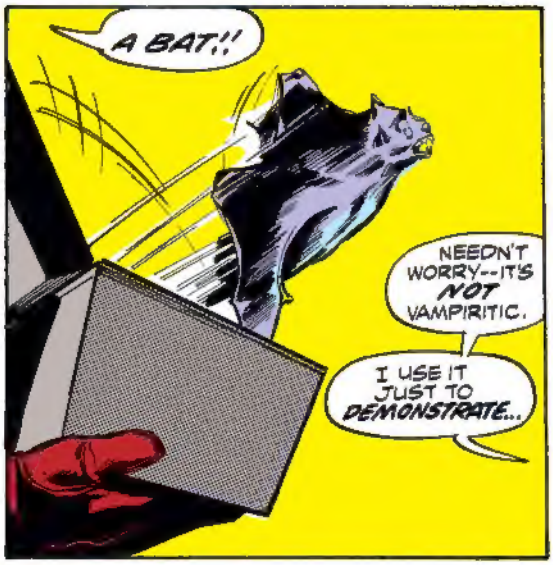
AHEM! THAT, YOUNG WOMAN, REMAINS AS FAMILY BUSINESS... AND HARDLY ANY OF YOURS.
BY THE WAY, THIS TELEGRAM ARRIVED WHILE YOU WERE OUT.

IT'S FROM QUINCY HARKER -- HE ASKS THAT WE RETURN TO LONDON... IMMEDIATELY. DRACULA'S BEEN SPOTTED THERE.
TAJ-- PREPARE OUR BAGS FOR TRAVELING.

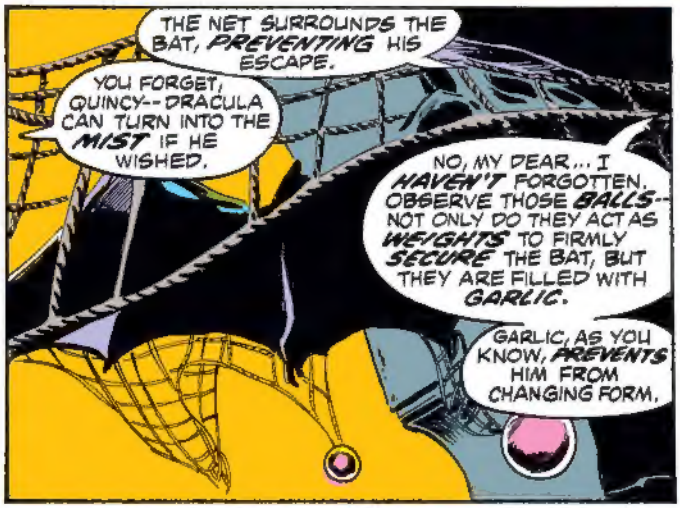

WITH DAYLIGHT, THE THREE VAMPIRE-HUNTERS FIND THEMSELVES ON THE LONDON EXPRESS...
QUINCY HARKER-- NAME RINGS A BELL, BUT I CAN'T PLACE IT.
QUINCY'S PARENTS WERE JONATHAN AND MINA HARKER...
THEY FOUGHT ALONGSIDE MY GRANDFATHER AGAINST DRACULA.


YOU'LL LIKE HIM, FRANK... HE BELIEVES IN GADGETS... ELECTRONICS...
A SCIENTIFIC APPROACH TO VAMPIRE-STALKING.
THERE HE IS NOW-- OVER THERE!
STILL UP TO YOUR OLD TRICKS, EH, QUINCY? I SEE YOU'VE CONVERTED YOUR WHEELCHAIR TO SELF-DRIVE.
AND WHY NOT, MY DEAR--? NO NEED WAITING FOR OTHERS TO PUSH ME ABOUT.
AH-- YOU MUST BE FRANK DRAKE-- RACHEL'S TOLD ME ALL ABOUT YOU.
YOU WERE RIGHT, MY DEAR--MR. DRAKE WILL BE A NICE ADDITION TO OUR 'GROUP'!
I HOPE YOU WON'T MIND, MR. DRAKE --BUT I'VE CANCELLED YOUR HOTEL RESERVA-TIONS. YOU'LL BE A GUEST AT MY ESTATE.
NOW COME, CHILDREN, THERE IS MUCH TO TALK ABOUT.
I DON'T WANT TO SOUND TROUBLESOME, MR. HARKER-- BUT MIND TELLING ME WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT--?
AH, THE VOICE OF INQUISITIVENESS... VERY GOOD, MR. DRAKE.
AS RACHEL HAS NO DOUBT MENTIONED, I HAVE DEDICATED MY LIFE TO HUNTING VAMPIRES, NOT AN EASY GOAL, I'LL TELL YOU.
LAST NIGHT, EDITH, MY DAUGHTER, WAS ATTACKED BY DRACULA. FORTUN-ATELY, HE WAS STOPPED IN TIME.
DRACULA IS UP TO SOME SCHEME, MR. DRAKE-- IF HE WASN'T, HE WOULD NEVER HAVE RETURNED TO LONDON...
...HE WOULD HAVE GONE STRAIGHT TOWARDS TRANSYLVANIA.
ENOUGH TALKING, NOW-- YOU YOUNG PEOPLE MUST BE TIRED AFTER THE LONG TRIP... AND MY HOME IS AHEAD.
HARKER ESTATE, MR. DRAKE-- MY FATHER BUILT IT-- I HAVE LIVED HERE ALL MY LIFE.
IT SYMBOLIZES MY STRUGGLE WITH OUR FRIEND THE COUNT-- IT STANDS STURDY, AND WILL NEVER CRUMBLE...
...NOT TILL DRACULA HIMSELF HAS GONE TO HIS FINAL REWARD!
EDITH WILL SHOW YOU TO YOUR ROOMS. REST UP, AND AFTER DINNER I WILL HAVE A FEW SURPRISES FOR YOU.
WHICH MEANS, FRANK, HE'S DEVEL-OPED MORE OF THOSE GADGETS. I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO SEE...!


THE EVENING HOURS RUSH QUICKLY BY, AND THEN ALL MEET IN THE SUBTERRANEAN WEAPONS ROOM FAR BELOW HARKER ESTATE...
NICE PLACE--LIKE AN OLD HAMMER MOVIE SET.
IT SERVES A PURPOSE, MR. DRAKE, NOW WATCH--ALL OF YOU.
IN THIS TUBE IS THE WEAPON THAT WILL TRAP DRACULA...A WEAPON FROM WHICH THERE IS NO ESCAPE!
TAJ--OPEN THE BOX.

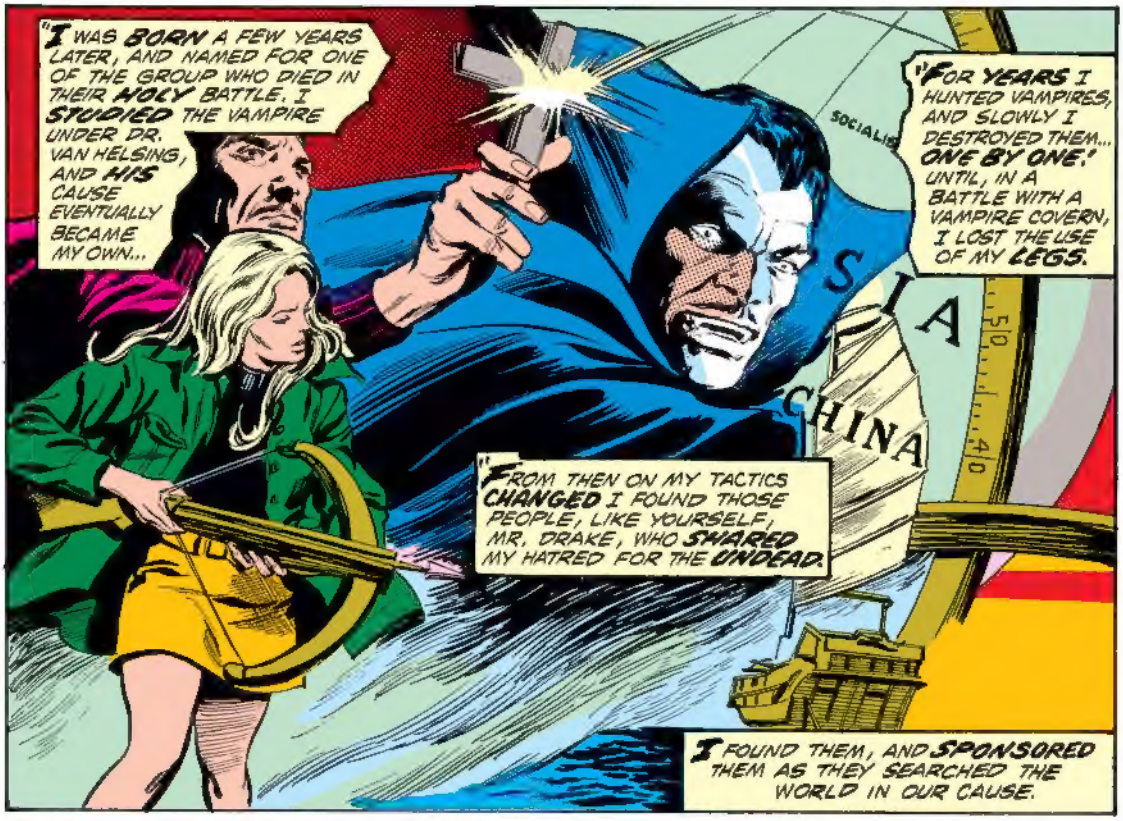

A BAT!!
NEEDN'T WORRY--IT'S NOT VAMPIRITIC.
I USE IT JUST TO DEMONSTRATE...

ASSUME YOU'VE CORNERED OUR TRICKY COUNT. YOU, RACHAEL, HAVE FIRED YOUR CROSSBOW--HE TURNS INTO A BAT AND ESCAPES...
UNTIL NOW, THAT IS, I TAKE THIS TUBE... AND FIRE...
...RELEASING A NET!


THE NET SURROUNDS THE BAT, PREVENTING HIS ESCAPE.
YOU FORGET, QUINCY--DRACULA CAN TURN INTO THE MIST IF HE WISHED.
NO, MY DEAR... I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN. OBSERVE THOSE BALLS--NOT ONLY DO THEY ACT AS WEIGHTS TO FIRMLY SECURE THE BAT, BUT THEY ARE FILLED WITH GARLIC.
GARLIC, AS YOU KNOW, PREVENTS HIM FROM CHANGING FORM.

THUS WE HAVE TRAPPED OUR PREY.
WHAT DO YOU THINK NOW, MY DEAR?
INGENIOUS--ASSUMING THE BAT WILL STAND STILL LONG ENOUGH FOR YOU TO USE THE NET.

I STILL PREFER THE CROSS-BOW, QUINCY.
ITS RANGE IS GREATER... AND IT'S FASTER TO FIRE.
AND WITH OUR COUNT, SPEED IS ALWAYS ESSENTIAL.
AND YOU, MR. DRAKE... WHAT DO YOU THINK?
I'M IMPRESSED, BUT THEN I GET TURNED ON BY ELECTRIC PENCIL SHARPENERS.
TELL ME, IS ALL THIS STUFF NECESS-ARY? I THOUGHT ALL YOU NEEDED WAS A WOODEN STAKE.
FRANK--!!
NO, RACHEL-- MR. DRAKE DESERVES TO BE A SKEPTIC.
PERHAPS IF HE HEARS HOW THIS STRUGGLE FIRST BEGAN...
"IT STARTED MORE THAN EIGHTY YEARS AGO, WHEN MY FATHER, JONATHAN HARKER, UNKNOWINGLY SET COUNT DRACULA LOOSE UPON LONDON...
"THE COUNT'S FIRST VICTIM WAS LUCY WESTENRA, MY MOTHER'S BEST FRIEND. LUCY BECAME A VAMPIRE, AND IT TOOK THE EFFORTS OF ABRAHAM VAN HELSING AND SEVERAL OTHERS TO GIVE LUCY AN ETERNAL REST...
"THIS GROUP DEDICATED THEMSELVES TO HUNTING DRACULA. THEY SEARCHED FOR HIM, AND FINALLY THOUGHT THEY SUCCEEDED IN DESTROYING HIM...
"...BUT HE WASN'T DESTROYED... HE WAS WAITING FOR THE DAY HE WOULD RISE AGAIN!!"

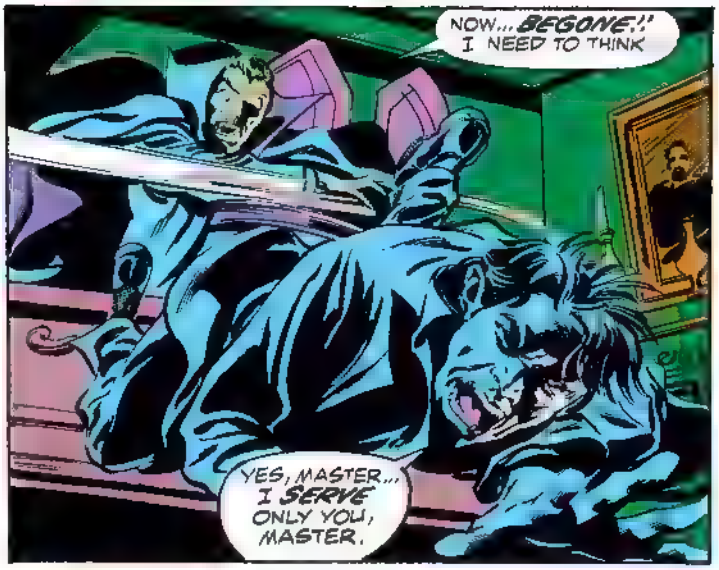

"I WAS BORN A FEW YEARS LATER, AND NAMED FOR ONE OF THE GROUP WHO DIED IN THEIR HOLY BATTLE. I STUDIED THE VAMPIRE UNDER DR. VAN HELSING, AND HIS CAUSE EVENTUALLY BECAME MY OWN...
"FOR YEARS I HUNTED VAMPIRES, AND SLOWLY I DESTROYED THEM... ONE BY ONE.' UNTIL, IN A BATTLE WITH A VAMPIRE COVERN, I LOST THE USE OF MY LEGS.
"FROM THEN ON MY TACTICS CHANGED I FOUND THOSE PEOPLE, LIKE YOURSELF, MR. DRAKE, WHO SHARED MY HATRED FOR THE UNDEAD.
I FOUND THEM, AND SPONSORED THEM AS THEY SEARCHED THE WORLD IN OUR CAUSE.

SIXTY YEARS I'VE BEEN FIGHTING, MR. DRAKE, AND YES... YES... MY GADGETS ARE IMPORTANT... VERY IMPORTANT.
TODAY THE VAMPIRE IS MORE INTELLI-GENT THAN BEFORE ...AND WE MUST EVER BE MORE CRAFTY.
ARE YOU IN WITH US, MR. DRAKE...YES OR NO?
I-I'M IN, SIR... TILL THE BATTLE IS OVER...

"...TILL THE BATTLE IS OVER..."
LET ME HELP YOU, MASTER... TO DESTROY VAN HELSING... PLEASE...
MASTER... MASTER... THE SUN HAS SET... YOU CAN AWAKEN, NOW.

YOUR ENDLESS PRATTLE OFFENDS ME, GRAVES...
NOW SILENCE WHILE DRACULA RISES.

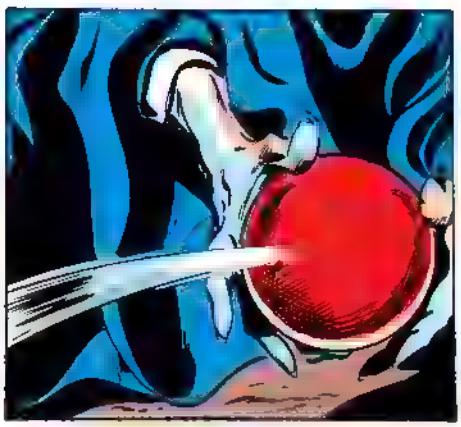
MARK TODAY WELL, MY MINDLESS FOOL... TODAY IS THE DAY DRACULA DESTROYS ALL HIS LIVING ENEMIES.
TODAY I BEGIN MY CONQUEST OF THIS FOOLISH GLOBE...
AND BEFORE I AM DONE, ONLY THE UNDEAD SHALL WALK THE EARTH...
...WITH DRACULA AS THEIR LORD AND MASTER!!

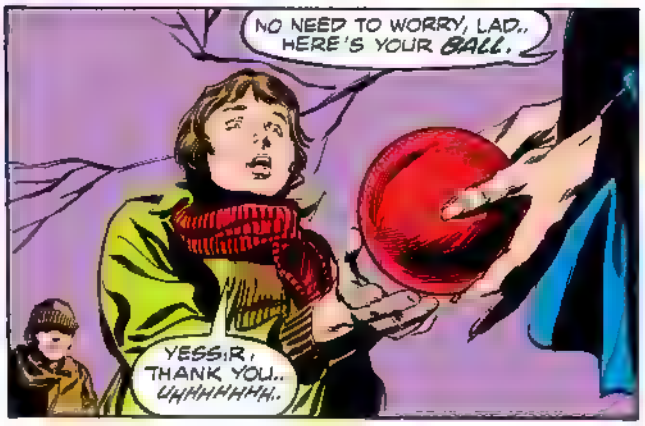

NOW... BEGONE!! I NEED TO THINK
YES, MASTER... I SERVE ONLY YOU, MASTER.

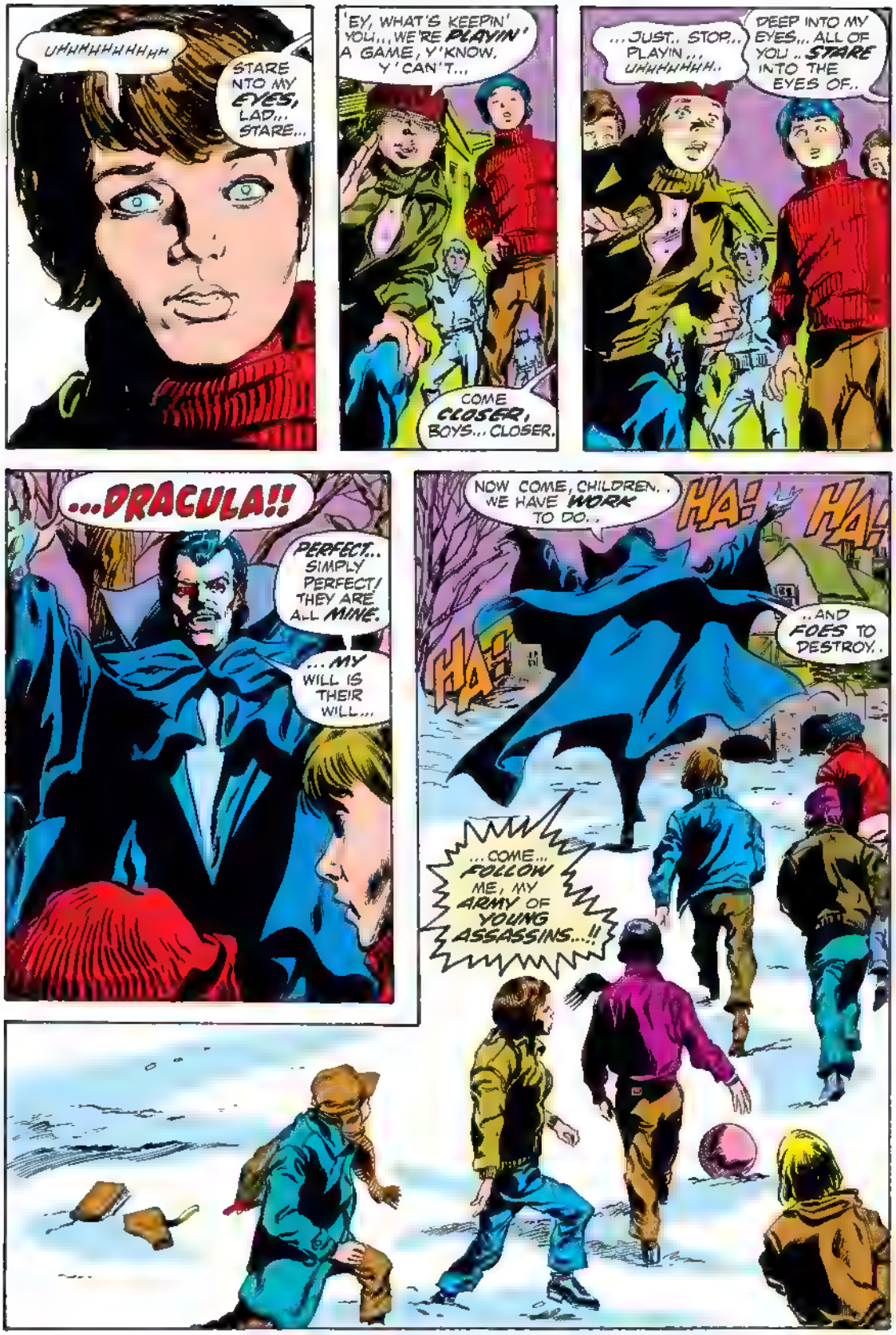
SOON, ACROSS LONDON, A STRIKINGLY DIFFERENT SCENE IS UNFOLDING...
AW, YOU HAIN'T WORTH NOTHIN', YOU HAIN'T.
YOU AVEN'T MADE ONE PASS YET.
C MON, TEDDY, LET US ALL PLAY... PLEASE.

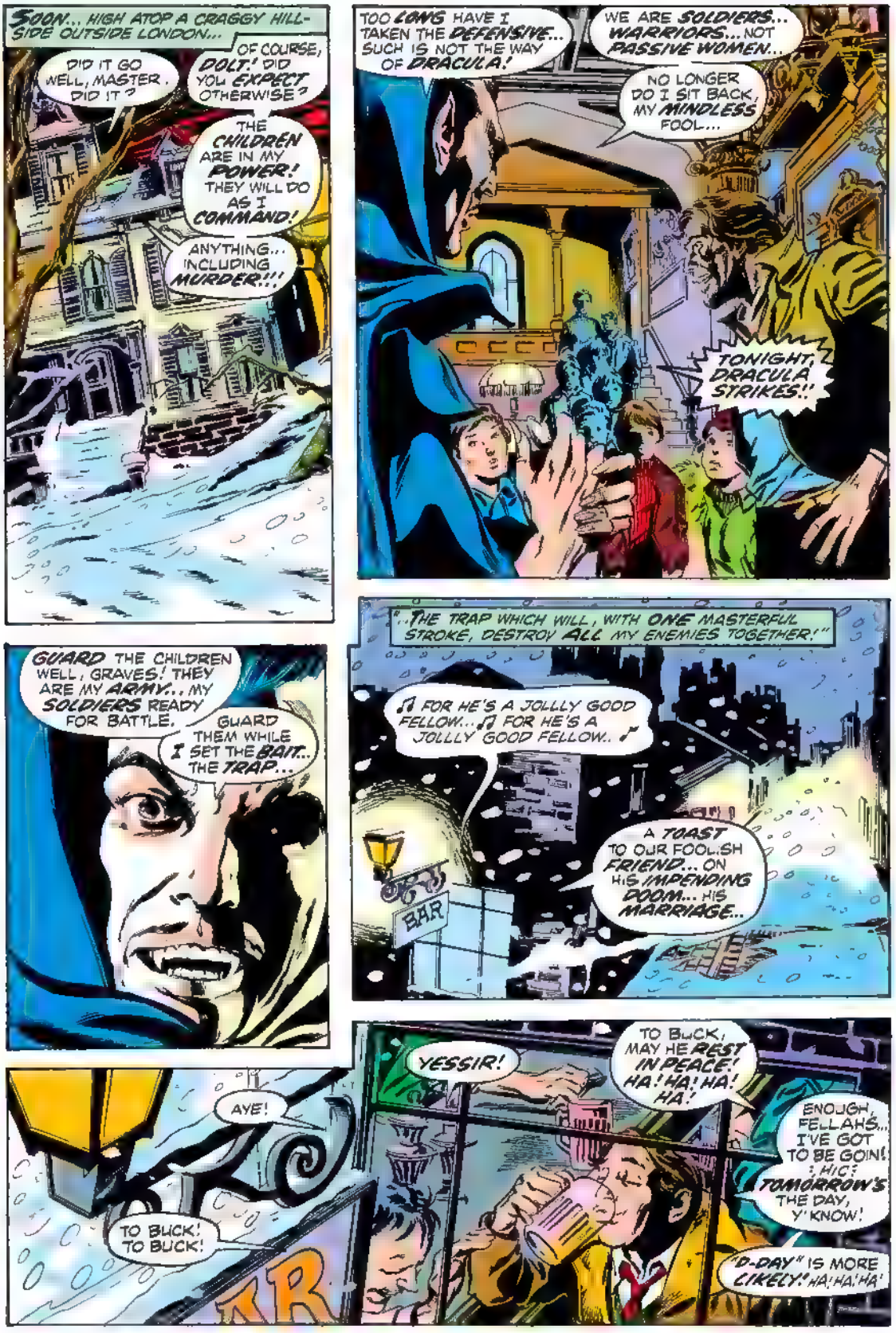
'ERE--IF YOU KICK THIS BACK, YOU CAN PLAY
ALL RIGHT... ALL RIGHT... DON'T GO CRYIN' HOME TO YOUR MUMS...

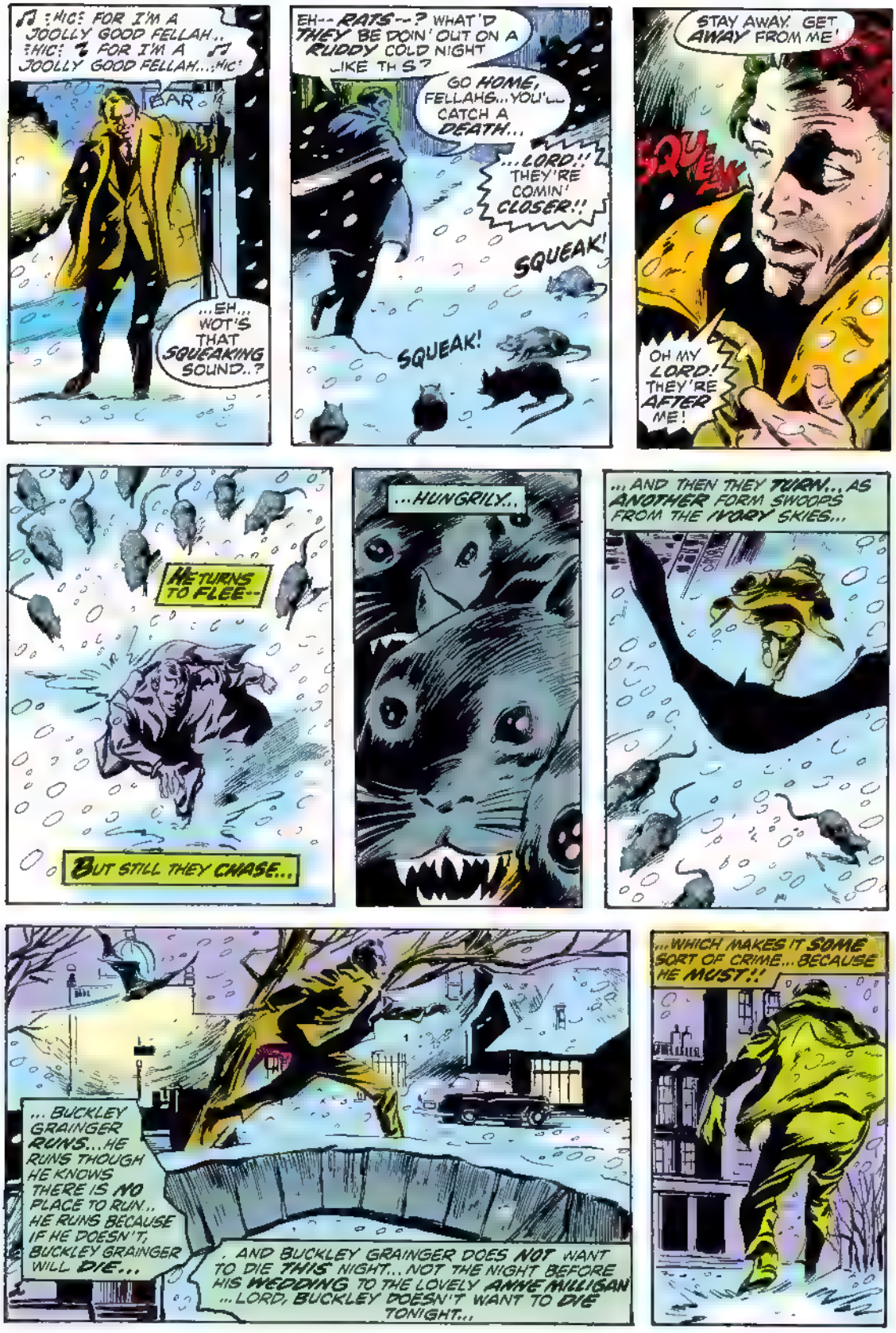
THAT'S NO FAIR... YOU KICKED IT TOO HARD-- JUST SO I'D MISS!
THUNK




NO NEED TO WORRY, LAD.. HERE'S YOUR BALL.
YESSIR, THANK YOU.. UHHHHHHH..


UHHHHHHHHHH
STARE NTO MY EYES, LAD... STARE...
'EY, WHAT'S KEEPIN' YOU... WE'RE PLAYIN' A GAME, Y'KNOW. Y'CAN'T...
COME CLOSER, BOYS... CLOSER.
...JUST.. STOP... PLAYIN... UHHHHHHH..
DEEP INTO MY EYES... ALL OF YOU .. STARE INTO THE EYES OF..
...DRACULA!!
PERFECT.. SIMPLY PERFECT! THEY ARE ALL MINE.
...MY WILL IS THEIR WILL...
NOW COME, CHILDREN.. WE HAVE WORK TO DO..
HA!
HA!
HA!
..AND FOES TO DESTROY..
...COME... FOLLOW ME, MY ARMY OF YOUNG ASSASSINS...!!


SOON... HIGH ATOP A CRAGGY HILLSIDE OUTSIDE LONDON...
DID IT GO WELL, MASTER. DID IT?
OF COURSE, DOLT! DID YOU EXPECT OTHERWISE?
THE CHILDREN ARE IN MY POWER! THEY WILL DO AS I COMMAND!
ANYTHING... INCLUDING MURDER!!!
TOO LONG HAVE I TAKEN THE DEFENSIVE... SUCH IS NOT THE WAY OF DRACULA!
WE ARE SOLDIERS... WARRIORS... NOT PASSIVE WOMEN...
NO LONGER DO I SIT BACK, MY MINDLESS FOOL...
TONIGHT, DRACULA STRIKES!!
GUARD THE CHILDREN WELL, GRAVES! THEY ARE MY ARMY... MY SOLDIERS READY FOR BATTLE.
GUARD THEM WHILE I SET THE BAIT... THE TRAP...
"...THE TRAP WHICH WILL, WITH ONE MASTERFUL STROKE, DESTROY ALL MY ENEMIES TOGETHER!"
♫ FOR HE'S A JOLLLY GOOD FELLOW... ♫ FOR HE'S A JOLLLY GOOD FELLOW.. ♪
A TOAST TO OUR FOOLISH FRIEND... ON HIS IMPENDING DOOM... HIS MARRIAGE...
BAR
AYE!
TO BUCK! TO BUCK!
YESSIR!
TO BUCK, MAY HE REST IN PEACE! HA! HA! HA! HA!
ENOUGH, FELLAHS... I'VE GOT TO BE GOIN'! ; HIC! TOMORROW'S THE DAY, Y'KNOW!
"D-DAY" IS MORE LIKELY! HA! HA! HA!


♫ :HIC: FOR I'M A JOOLLY GOOD FELLAH.. :HIC: ♫ FOR I'M A JOOLLY GOOD FELLAH...:HIC: ♫
BAR
...EH... WOT'S THAT SQUEAKING SOUND..?
EH--RATS--? WHAT'D THEY BE DOIN' OUT ON A RUDDY COLD NIGHT LIKE THIS?
GO HOME, FELLAHS...YOU'LL CATCH A DEATH...
...LORD!! THEY'RE COMIN' CLOSER!!
SQUEAK!
SQUEAK!
STAY AWAY GET AWAY FROM ME!
SQUEAK
OH MY LORD! THEY'RE AFTER ME!
HE TURNS TO FLEE--
BUT STILL THEY CHASE...
...HUNGRILY..
...AND THEN THEY TURN... AS ANOTHER FORM SWOOPS FROM THE IVORY SKIES...
...BUCKLEY GRAINGER RUNS...HE RUNS THOUGH HE KNOWS THERE IS NO PLACE TO RUN.. HE RUNS BECAUSE IF HE DOESN'T, BUCKLEY GRAINGER WILL DIE...
...AND BUCKLEY GRAINGER DOES NOT WANT TO DIE THIS NIGHT... NOT THE NIGHT BEFORE HIS WEDDING TO THE LOVELY ANNE MILLIGAN ...LORD, BUCKLEY DOESN'T WANT TO DIE TONIGHT...
...WHICH MAKES IT SOME SORT OF CRIME... BECAUSE HE MUST!!

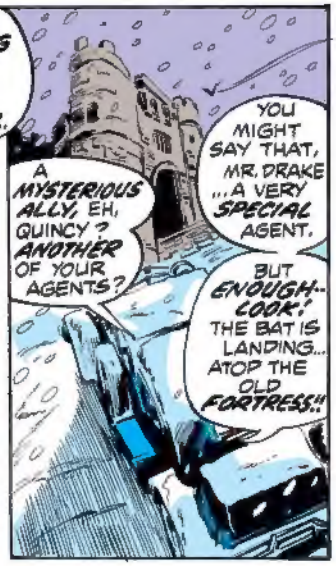
NO USE RUNNING, MORTAL...WHAT DRACULA WANTS, HE ALWAYS GETS!!
OH NO!! IN HEAVEN'S NAME--NO!!
AND IN THE NAME OF HELL-- YES!!
AAAGHHHH!!
A SCREAM--??
FROM OUTSIDE-- HURRY.. SOMEONE MAY BE HURT!
SO, MY POOR DESCENDANT-- HOW UNFORTUNATE YOU MUST BE HERE
DRACULA!! HE'S ATTACKED SOMEBODY.
NOW YOU MUST DIE AS WELL!
ONLY IF YOU GET THE CHANCE, BIG MAN-- AND I'M NOT ABOUT TO LET YOU!
LET--? YOU ARE A BIGGER FOOL THAN I THOUGHT, FRANK DRAKE.
YOU LET NOTHING! DRACULA DOES AS HE PLEASES..
AND IT PLEASES HIM TO DO-- THIS!
GROOWWLL
THE DOG-- HARKER'S DOG!!

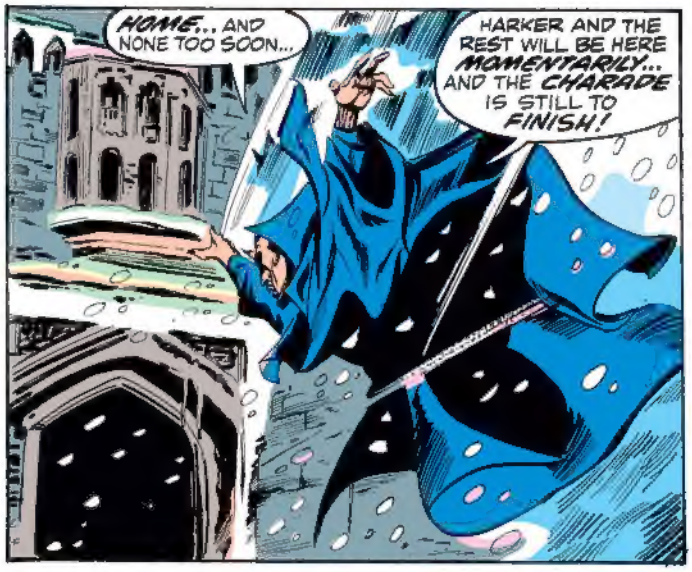
NO MATTER--THESE HUMANS DON'T REALIZE THE EXTENT OF DRACULA'S STRENGTH!
YOUR STRENGTH DOESN'T MATTER, COUNT--NOT WITH A WOODEN STAKE THROUGH YOUR HEART!
VAN HELSING?!?
YOU'RE A FOOL TO THINK YOUR PRIMITIVE SHAFT CAN STOP ONE SUCH AS I..
..ONE WHO CAN BECOME LIKE THE FOGGY MIST ITSELF!
SEE--YOUR SHAFT PASSES HARMLESSLY THROUGH ME...
THWANG
NOW IT IS MY TURN TO ATTACK...
AND I AM NOT NEARLY SO HARMLESS!
TAJ--THANK GOD!
WHAT--? HE THINKS HE CAN MAN-HANDLE ME--AS IF I WERE A CLODDISH PEASANT...
UNHAND ME, YOU SILENT OAF--BEFORE I DESTROY YOU!
HOLD HIM, TAJ... JUST A MOMENT LONGER...
...LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO PLUNGE THIS STAKE INTO HIS LOATHSOME BODY.

BAH! I TIRE OF YOUR GAMES, DRACULA PLAYS THEM NO LONGER.
DON'T LET HIM GO, TAJ--
FOR ALL THAT IS HOLY-- DON'T LET HIM...
GO..!
HE'S GONE-- TURNED INTO THAT UNTOUCHABLE MIST OF HIS...
SO CLOSE... SO DAMNABLY CLOSE!
THE GAME ISN'T OVER YET... AS LONG AS HE'S HERE, WE CAN STOP H.M..
AND WE'VE GOT TO! WE'VE GOT TO!!
OH NO-- HE'S TAKING OFF WE CAN'T STOP HIM NOW.
YES WE CAN, MR. DRAKE-- HURRY-- TO THE CAR!
HE MUST FLY LOW BECAUSE OF THE STORM... LOW ENOUGH FOR US TO FOLLOW.. IF WE'RE FAST ENOUGH.
NOW HURRY, MAN-- HURRY!!
EDITH... YOU STAY HERE AND MAN THE RADIO! WE'LL BE NEEDING SOMEONE FREE AND STANDING BY!!
BE CAREFUL... ALL OF YOU.
YOU WERE RIGHT, QUINCY-- THERE HE IS, AND MOVING SLOW!
IF HE STICKS TO THE MAIN ROADS, WE'VE GOT .M!

HE FLIES SLOWLY... PERHAPS TOO SLOWLY...
HE MAY BE LEADING US ON... SETTING A TRAP FOR US... SOME-HOW...!
DRACULA IS MORE CUNNING THAN AN ORDINARY ADVERSARY... AND WE MUST FIRST MAKE SURE OF OUR SAFETY!

EDITH -- BE SURE TO STAY NEAR... AND KEEP THIS WIRE OPEN AT ALL TIMES.
WE ARE CLOSING IN... AND THERE MAY BE DANGER.
IF SO, YOU KNOW WHOM YOU MUST CONTACT.

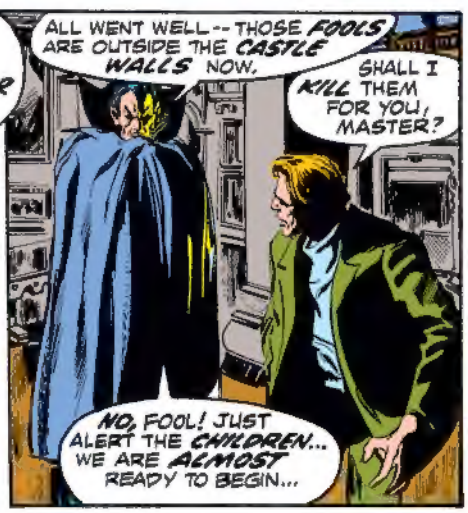

A MYSTERIOUS ALLY, EH, QUINCY? ANOTHER OF YOUR AGENTS?
YOU MIGHT SAY THAT, MR. DRAKE ...A VERY SPECIAL AGENT.
BUT ENOUGH-- LOOK! THE BAT IS LANDING... ATOP THE OLD FORTRESS!!


HOME... AND NONE TOO SOON...
HARKER AND THE REST WILL BE HERE MOMENTARILY... AND THE CHARADE IS STILL TO FINISH!

THE REST OF YOU STAY BEHIND... TAJ AND I CAN INVESTIGATE.
C'MON, BUDDY, WE'VE GOT US A LITTLE SPYING TO DO.

UPSY DAISY... AND BE CAREFUL... WOULDN'T WANT TO FALL AND ALERT HIM!
HMMM... YOU SURE EAT YOUR WHEATIES, DON'TCHA, TAJ?

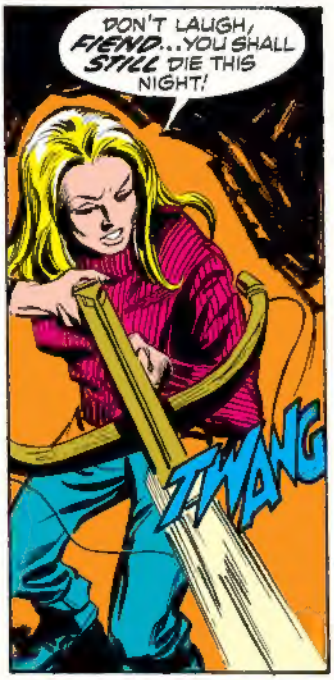
MY OLD PARTNER, CLIFF GRAVES, IS THERE... WAITING...
AH, DRAC'S ENTERING THE CHAMBER ROOM NOW...
BLAST! I WISH I COULD HEAR THEM TALKING.


ALL WENT WELL -- THOSE FOOLS ARE OUTSIDE THE CASTLE WALLS NOW.
SHALL I KILL THEM FOR YOU, MASTER?
NO, FOOL! JUST ALERT THE CHILDREN... WE ARE ALMOST READY TO BEGIN...

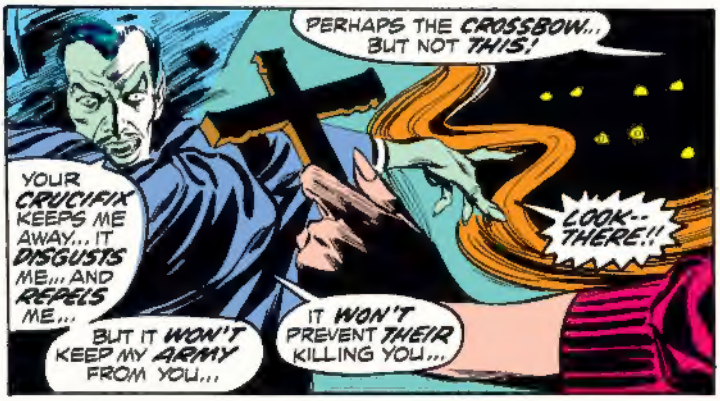
AND NOW... TO MY COFFIN...
I DO TRUST YOU PREPARED IT AS I ORDERED.
OF COURSE, MASTER... I GOT THE BODY JUST LIKE YOU ASKED...
GOOD... NOW WE ARE READY.
DRAC JUST ENTERED HIS COFFIN... FOR A GOOD DAY'S SLEEP. NOW'S THE BEST TIME TO STRIKE!
OKAY, FRIEND, LOWER AWAY... I'M STARTING TO GET AIR-SICK!
SOON... WITHIN THE FORTRESS...
SLEEP WELL, MASTER... I'LL GUARD YOUR BODY FAITHFULLY.
MMMFFFF
THIS IS THE ROOM-- DRACULA'S SLEEPING LIKE A BABY IN THAT COFFIN!
THEN WE SHALL MAKE SURE HE REMAINS THERE... FOREVER.
TAJ-- HELP ME UP-- I MUST BE THE ONE TO END DRACULA'S REIGN OF TERROR.
DEAR GOD... IT'S BEEN SO LONG A HUNT... PLEASE GUIDE MY ARM STRONG AND SURE...
THERE!!

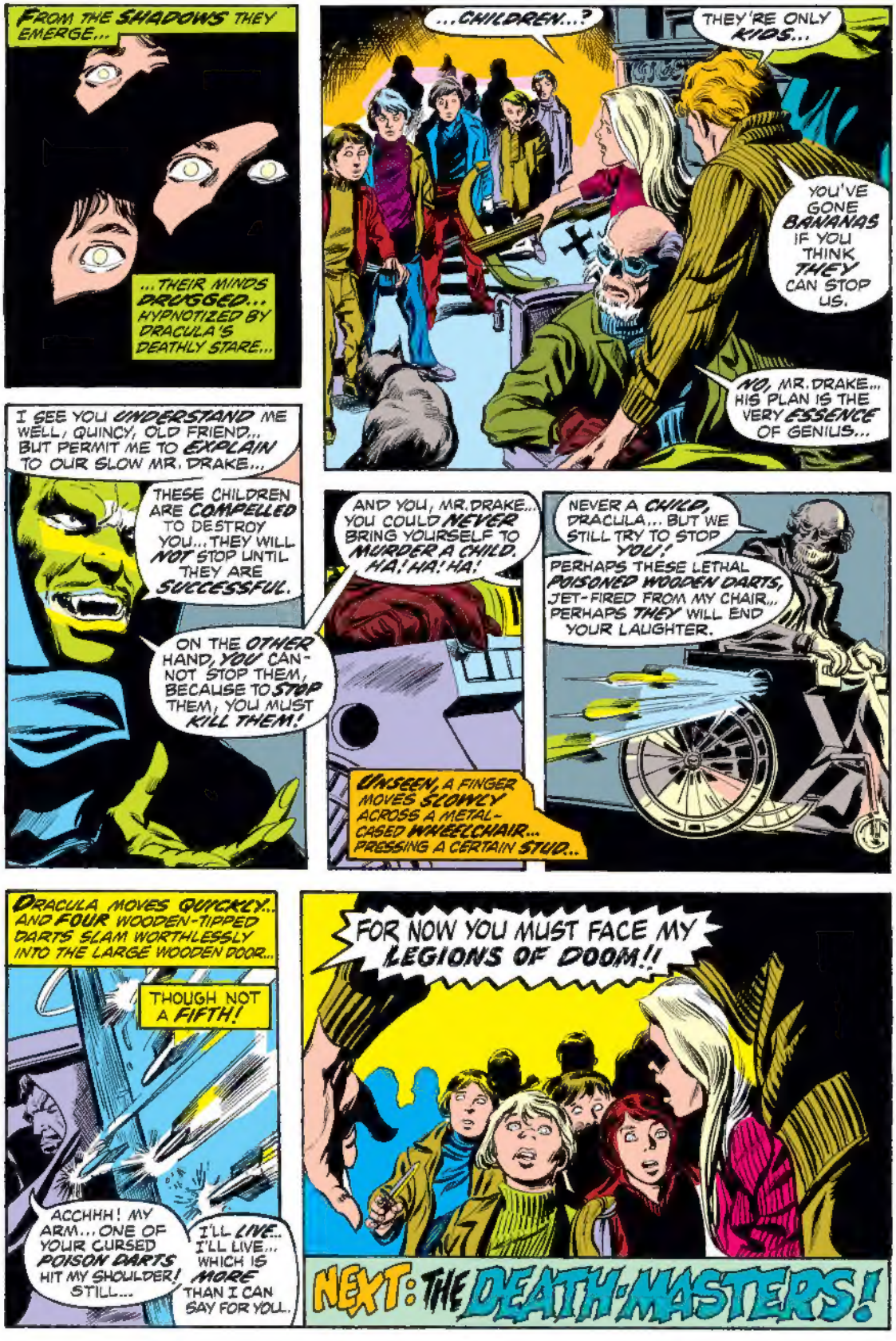
AND NOW THE KNIFE... QUICKLY, HIS HEAD MUST BE SEVERED!
WHAT--? LAUGHTER... INSANE LAUGHTER!!
NO-- IT CAN'T BE HIM... IT CAN'T BE...!
HA HA HA

BUT IT IS MY FOOLISH OLD MAN... I LED YOU HERE... FORCED YOU TO PLAY MY GAME...
THAT WAS NOT I IN THE COFFIN YOU SLEW...
YOU ATTACKED ONE ALREADY DEAD!! DISGUISED TO LOOK LIKE ME... HA! HA! HA!


DON'T LAUGH, FIEND... YOU SHALL STILL DIE THIS NIGHT!
TWANG

HA! HA! HA! HA! EASIER SAID THAN DONE, VAN HELSING... I CAN SHIFT FORMS FASTER THAN YOUR TOY BOW CAN FIRE.
YOUR WEAPON IS MEANING-LESS TO ME... MEAN-INGLESS!
THUNK


PERHAPS THE CROSSBOW... BUT NOT THIS!
YOUR CRUCIFIX KEEPS ME AWAY... IT DISGUSTS ME... AND REPELS ME...
LOOK-- THERE!!
BUT IT WON'T KEEP MY ARMY FROM YOU...
IT WON'T PREVENT THEIR KILLING YOU...


FROM THE SHADOWS THEY EMERGE...
...THEIR MINDS DRUGGED... HYPNOTIZED BY DRACULA'S DEATHLY STARE...
...CHILDREN...?
THEY'RE ONLY KIDS...
YOU'VE GONE BANANAS IF YOU THINK THEY CAN STOP US.
NO, MR. DRAKE... HIS PLAN IS THE VERY ESSENCE OF GENIUS...
I SEE YOU UNDERSTAND ME WELL, QUINCY, OLD FRIEND... BUT PERMIT ME TO EXPLAIN TO OUR SLOW MR. DRAKE...
THESE CHILDREN ARE COMPELLED TO DESTROY YOU... THEY WILL NOT STOP UNTIL THEY ARE SUCCESSFUL.
ON THE OTHER HAND, YOU CANNOT STOP THEM, BECAUSE TO STOP THEM, YOU MUST KILL THEM!
AND YOU, MR. DRAKE... YOU COULD NEVER BRING YOURSELF TO MURDER A CHILD. HA! HA! HA!
UNSEEN, A FINGER MOVES SLOWLY ACROSS A METAL-CASED WHEELCHAIR... PRESSING A CERTAIN STUD...
NEVER A CHILD, DRACULA... BUT WE STILL TRY TO STOP YOU!
PERHAPS THESE LETHAL POISONED WOODEN DARTS, JET-FIRED FROM MY CHAIR... PERHAPS THEY WILL END YOUR LAUGHTER.
DRACULA MOVES QUICKLY... AND FOUR WOODEN-TIPPED DARTS SLAM WORTHLESSLY INTO THE LARGE WOODEN DOOR...
THOUGH NOT A FIFTH!
ACCHHH! MY ARM... ONE OF YOUR CURSED POISON DARTS HIT MY SHOULDER! STILL...
I'LL LIVE... I'LL LIVE... WHICH IS MORE THAN I CAN SAY FOR YOU.
FOR NOW YOU MUST FACE MY LEGIONS OF DOOM!!
NEXT: THE DEATH-MASTERS!